an economically and environmentally sustainable development especially in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Orissa and Himachal Pradesh.

Anomalies in Excise Duty Structure

900. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers' Association has pointed out anomalies in excise duty structure arising out of the budget provisions ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) what steps Government propose to take to remove the anomalies ;

(d) whether they have also represented that duty on electrical insulators of all types falling under Tariff item 83.12, Tariff item 85.44 and Tariff item 85.46 be reduced to 10 per cent ad valorem and on Tariff item 7225.10 : 7226.10 to 60 per cent ad valorem ;

(e) whether any expert advice has been taken in this regard, if not, what are the reasons therefor ; and

(f) what action Government have taken on the representation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (f) The Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers' Association, in their letters dated 4th March, 1993 and 11th March, 1993 have stated that post-budget excise duty structure has led to certain anomalies. In the representation, the Association has, inter alia, stated that excise duty of 35 per cent on electrical wires and cables of heading No. 85.44 and 40 per cent on electrical insulators of heading No. 85.46 of Central Excise Tariff is anomalous. Similarly, in respect of transformers, motors and switchgears the excise duty on finished goods is 5 per cent while that on their inputs is higher. The Association has also requested for reduction in import duty on items falling under sub-heading Nos. 7225.10, 7226.10 of the Customs Tariff to 60 per cent ad valorem and reduction in excise duty on items falling under Heading Nos. 83.12, 85.44 and 85.46 of the Central Excise Tariff to 10 per cent ad valorem.

The Government have examined the various points referred to above. It has not been found possible to accede to the requests made by the Association at present.

Cultivation of Opium

901. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the World's largest legal grower of opium but the area under legal cultivation has declined by 80 per cent between 1978 and 1992 ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the seizures of Illicit opium fell from 29,145 Kgs. in 1991 to 1,813 Kgs. in 1992 ;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether the special State Narcotics courts mandated by the 1988 drug law to expedite trials of drug traffickers have been set-up in the country if so, what are State-wise details thereof ;

(e) what is the number of persons who were arrested under the Narcotics and Psychotropic substances Act, during 1992 both by the Central and State Agencies as compared to the year 1991 state-wise details thereof ; and

(f) what effective steps the Central Government propose to take to control the illicit growth and business of Narcotics and for the setting up of more Special Narcotics Courts in all States by 1993-94 ?